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Message Text

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45
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /153 W
---------- 090541
R 091549Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1297
INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN CELEBRATION ON AMERICAN EVACUATION DAY

1. FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF DEPARTURE ON AMERICAN TROOPS FROM LIBYA, JUNE 11, IS TO BE CELEBRATED BY REGIME WITH SPECIAL ECLAT. TRIPOLI IS BEDECKED WITH FLAGS, COLORED LIGHTS, AND BANNERS WITH SLOGANS. JALLUD IS TO LIGHT TORCH IN DOWNTOWN TRIPOLI WITH FLAME CARRIED FROM EX-WHEELUS AIR BASE JUNE 10, AND ON JUNE 11 THERE IS TO BE PARADE AND SPEECH PRESUMABLY BY JALLUD OR QADHAFI. CAREFUL PREPARATIONS, WHICH BEGAN SOME WEEKS AGO, ARE APPARENTLY INTENDED TO AVOID REPETITION OF SOMEWHAT TEPID OBSERVANCE OF BRITISH EVACUATION DAY EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHEN A SPEECH BY JALLUD FAILED TO ENGAGE ATTENTION OF LISTLESS CROWD.

2. AS THE DAY APPROACHES FOREIGNERS HERE, AWARE OF REGIME'S FONDNESS FOR TAKING ACTION AGAINST OIL COMPANIES ON NATIONAL HOLIDAYS, ARE WONDERING WHERE SOME BLOW MIGHT FALL. LIBYANS, ON OTHER HAND, ARE MORE INCLINED TO THINK REGIME MAY ANNOUNCE SOME POPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURE ON LIKE LOWERING RELATIVELY
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HIGH INCOME TAX RATE, OR REMOVING SOME IMPORT DUTIES.

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THERE HAVE EVEN BEEN RUMORS THAT SOME KIND OF
DOMESTIC POLITICAL RELAXATION IS IN THE WORKS, ALTHOUGH
IT IS HARD TO SEE WHAT FORM IT WOULD TAKE.

3. ONE ENCOURAGING SIGN, FROM POINT OF
VIEW OF U.S. OIL INTERESTS, IS THAT SLOGANS CHOSEN
FOR DAY ALL SEEM TO BE UPLIFTING AND POSITIVE, AND NOT
RPT NOT ANTI-AMERICAN. THEY CONCENTRATE ON CELEBRATING
REVOLUTIONS'S ACHIEVEMENT , RATHER THAN CONDEMNING US.
ALSO, COMPOSITION OF THE PARADE AS ANNOUNCED IS PRE-
DOMINANTLY CIVILIAN, INCLUDING SPORTS TEAMS AND BOY
SCOUTS. THIS FITS IN WITH THEORY THAT SPECIAL EFFORT
REGIME IS MAKING IS PRIMARILY AIMED AT AROUSING
REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT, FERVOR AMONG LIBYANS, IN

LINE WITH QADHAFI'S CONCENTRATION ON "MASS ORGANIZING"
DURING PAST TWO MONTHS.
STEIN

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